

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 91-141 and 150-168 were previously pending in this application. Of these, claims 150-167 were previously allowed. In the complete listing of the claims above, claims 91-141 and 168 are now canceled. No other claims have been amended or added by this paper or in the complete listing. Accordingly, only allowed claims 150-167 in the complete listing above are still pending in this application.^{2 3}

In a sincere effort to expedite the processing of this application to issue, Applicants have elected to maintain claims 150-167 that were previously allowed. All other ground of rejection in the February 24, 2003 final Office Action are believed to have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 91-141 and 168.

With respect to the Continuation Sheet that accompanied the May 18, 2004 Decision On Petition, Applicants believe that the above listing of the claims complies with the rules and required format for claim amendments. A clean set of all the pending claims and the status of all claims is now indicated in the complete listing above. See footnotes below.

² Applicants' undersigned attorney spoke with Petitions Examiner Retta Williams on June 16, June 17 and June 21, 2004 regarding the series of papers that were generated by the Patent Office in connection with this application. Among the generated papers are the aforementioned May 18, 2004 Petition and the Advisory Action (including Continuation Sheet), a Notice of Withdrawal From Issue Under 37 CFR 1.313(b) dated April 20, 2004, and most recently, the Notice of Abandonment mailed on June 14, 2004. The latter indicated that the '[t]his application is abandoned in view of 1. Applicant's failure to timely file a proper reply to the Office letter mailed on 24 February 2003.'

³ In the most recent telephone call on June 21, 2004, Petitions Examiner Williams suggested that the most efficient course of action in this application would be to respond to the Advisory Action by submitting a properly formatted amendment. This paper attempts to do so.

Favorable action in the form of an indication of allowability is respectfully
requested.

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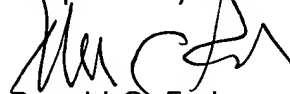
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In the complete listing of the claims above, claims 91-141 and 168 have been canceled, thereby leaving as pending claims only the previously allowed claims 150-167. Claims 1-90 and 142-149 were previously canceled.

This paper is accompanied by a Request For Extension Of Time (1 Month) and authorization for the fee therefor. No fee or fees are believed due in connection with this paper. In the event that any other fee or fees are due, however, The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge the amount of any such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 05-1135, or to credit any overpayment thereto.

If a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of the present application, Applicants' undersigned attorney request that he be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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